

**Remarks:**

The Examiner's detailed *Ex parte* Quayle action mailed 10/04/2004 has been carefully considered, and the objections stated therein are noted.

A copy of applicant's Oath and Declaration as filed with the original application in this case is provided with this correspondence together with a declaration from the undersigned attorney as to the inclusion of the original Oath and Declaration in the original filing papers of this case. As shown in the Thoeming declaration filed with this correspondence, the Oath and Declaration signed by Applicant, Kevin A. Tracy, Sr., was filed with the original papers in this case on August 22, 2003 [Exhibits A and B, declaration of Charles L. Thoeming]. Exhibit B of the Thoeming declaration indicates Applicant's Oath and Declaration was received by the Patent Office.

The specification has been amended as set forth above to address Applicant's use of the registered trademark VELCRO®, and the material(s) it includes, as required by the Examiner.

Claims 8, 12 and 16 have been amended to correct the matter objected to therein by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 have been amended to correct minor informalities.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims as amended herein are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration

and withdrawal of objections are hereby requested

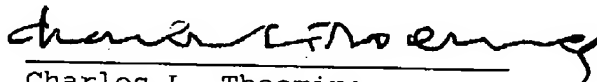
Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

**Conclusion:**

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and submits that the application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited.

Dated: October 12, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



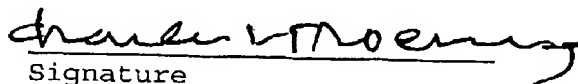
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the other formal/official papers facsimile number for Art Unit 3711 of (703)872.9306, as provided on page 3 of the Office Action to which this correspondence pertains, under a facsimile coversheet and transmittal page addressed to **MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 12, 2004.

Charles L. Thoeming, Registered  
Representative of Applicant

  
Signature

October 12, 2004  
Date of Signature